AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1-24. (Cancelled).

25. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture comprising an adherent antimicrobial coating comprising a nitrogen-containing polycationic polymer matrix immobilized on a surface of the article of manufacture, and an antimicrobial metallic material bound to the matrix such that the antimicrobial coating does not release biocidal amounts of elutables into the surrounding ambient liquid for at least 5 days.

26. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 25 wherein the nitrogen-containing polycationic polymer matrix comprises benzalkonium groups.

27. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 25 wherein the antimicrobial metallic material is selected from the group consisting of a metal, a metal salt, a metal complex, a metal alloy, and mixtures thereof.

28. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 27 wherein the metallic material comprises silver.

29. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 27 wherein the mixture comprises silver and copper.

30. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 27 wherein the metal salt is silver iodide.

31. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 25 wherein the nitrogen-containing polycationic polymer matrix is crosslinked with a crosslinking agent.

32. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 31, wherein the crosslinking agent is selected from the group consisting of isocyanates, carboxylic acids, acid chlorides, acid anhydrides, succinimidyl ether aldehydes, ketones, alkyl methanesulfonates, alkyl trifluoromethanesulfonates, alkyl para-toluenemethanesulfonates, alkyl halides, and epoxides.

33. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 31 wherein the crosslinking agent is N,N-methylene-bis-diglycidylaniline.

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 25 wherein the article is a medical device, a personal care product, or a consumer product.

36. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 25 wherein the article is a medical device selected from the group consisting of surgical gloves, surgical instruments, dental care instruments, dental consoles, instrument trays, catheters, urological devices, blood collection and transferring devices, devices from for implanting in a patient, urine collection devices, ophthalmic devices, intraocular lenses, tracheotomy devices, topical disinfectants and wound dressings.

37. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 35 wherein the personal care product is selected from the group consisting of hair care items, toothbrushes, dental floss, dental implements, contact lenses, contact lens storage cases, baby care items, child care items, bathroom implements, bed linens, towels and washcloths.

38. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 35, wherein the consumer product is selected from the group consisting of kitchen implements, trash containers, disposable trash bags and cutting boards.

39-49. (Cancelled)

50. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 25, wherein the antimicrobial coating is immobilized on the surface by covalent bonding, ionic interaction, coulombic interaction, hydrogen bonding, or cross-linking.

51. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 25, wherein the antimicrobial coating is immobilized on the surface via a functional group of the nitrogen-containing polycationic polymer.

52. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 25, wherein the functional group selected from the group consisting of a thiol group, a hydroxy group, an amine group, a halogen, an epoxy group, an alkyl group, and an alkoxy group.

53. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture comprising an adherent antimicrobial coating comprising a nitrogen-containing polycationic polymer matrix immobilized on a surface of the article of manufacture by covalent bonding, ionic interaction, coulombic interaction, hydrogen bonding, or cross-linking, and

an antimicrobial metallic material bound or attached to the matrix such that the antimicrobial coating does not release biocidal amounts of elutables into the surrounding ambient liquid for at least 5 days.

54. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture comprising an adherent antimicrobial coating comprising a nitrogen-containing polycationic polymer matrix immobilized on a surface of the article of manufacture, the nitrogen-containing polycationic polymer matrix being functionalized to enable immobilization on the surface, and

an antimicrobial metallic material bound to the matrix such that the antimicrobial coating does not release biocidal amounts of elutables into the surrounding ambient liquid for at least 5 days.

55. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 54, wherein the nitrogen-containing polycationic polymer is functionalized with a thiol group, a hydroxy group, an amine group, a halogen, an epoxy group, an alkyl group, an alkoxy group, and mixtures thereof.